been reported by the concerned authorities for non-fulfilment of export obligations by 100% EOUs. Investigations have been completed in 91 cases and show cause notices under the provisions of the Imports & Exports (Control) Act and Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, have been issued.

Export of Iron-Ore

10. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have exported iron-ore in the year 1994-95 and during the first sixth months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the amount of iron-ore exported during this period; and

(c) what is the total import of iron-ore during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The total export and import of iron-ore during 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-August' 95 is as under:

Qty: *in lakh tonnes*

Year	*Exports*	*Imports*
1994-95	252.15	15 23
1995-96 (April-August)	135.65	N.A.

N.A. = Not Available
SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta

Prices of Essential Commodities

11. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 101 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 1995 and state the increase/decrease in the prices of essential commodities in the country during the period from 1st May to 30th July, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): Percentage variations in the Wholesale Price indices of selected essential commodities during May, 1995 to July, 1995 are as under:

Commodity	*Percentage Variation*
Rice	+ 3.6
Wheat	− 3.6
Gram	− 8.3
Arhar	+ 21.0
Potatoes	+ 71.9
Onions	+ 58.2
Tea	+ 38.4
Sugar	+ 0.9
Salt	+ 32.6
Vanaspati	− 0.8
Groundnut Oil	+ 2.3
Mustard Oil	− 1.3
All Commodities	+ *2.0*

Duty Free Trade and Commerce Among SAARC Countries

12. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved till now to have duty-free trade and commerce among the SAARC countries;

(b) the total loss of annual anticipated revenue following the full implementation of the proposal; and

(c) the likely impact on India's balance of trade in the wake of such implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The agreement establishing the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was signed on 11th April, 1993 at the 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. All the

seven SAARC countries have ratified the Agreement by the first week of November, 1995. The tariff concessions agreed in the first round under the Agreement will become operative from 7.12.1995.

(b) and (c) Full implementation of SAPTA will require extension of tariff concessions, to all product lines. In the first round of negotiations, concessions have been extended to only a few tariff lines. With further expansion of tariff concessions under SAPTA in future rounds of negotiations intra SAARC trading opportunities are likely to be enlarged. The extent and depth of concessions will also be determined during the negotiations. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to quantify the likely increase in trade as a result of full implementation and also how much of the increase will represent additionality in trade. Consequently, loss of anticipated revenue as a result of full implementation of SAPTA cannot be determined at this stage.

दालों का आयात

13. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने दालों के मूल्यों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए, जो देश में दलहनों की कमी के कारण बढ़ गयी थीं, इनके आयात को प्रोत्साहित किया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनके आयात को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या सुविधाएं देने की घोषणा की गयी है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि दलहनों के आयात के लिए सुविधाओं की घोषणा करने के बावजूद स्वदेशी बाजार में इनके मूल्यों में कोई गिरावट नहीं आयी है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) हाल ही में दालों पर आयात शुल्क को 10 प्रतिशत से घटाकर 5 प्रतिशत कर दिया गया है।

(ग) जी, हां।

(घ) पिछले वर्षों में 4-6 लाख मीटरी टन दालों का आयात किया गया था जबकि मांग और आपूर्ति के बीच लगभग 2-3 मिलियन मीटरी टन का अन्तर है। यह खुले बाजार में मूल्यों को कम करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है। देश में दालों के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए सभी संभव उपाय किए जा रहे हैं।

Distribution of Coconut Oil

14. **SHRI JOY NADUKKARA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state whether Government propose to distribute coconut oil throughout the country through the outlets of Civil Supplies Department in view of the continuous fall in price of coconuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): The Ministers-in-charge of Food and Civil Supplies of all States/UTs have been requested to explore the possibility of procuring and supplying adequate quantities of coconut oil to consumers through fair price shops/cooperative outlets under the Public Distribution System so as to popularise the use of coconut oil as a cooking medium.

Production and Export of Sugar

15. **SHRI MOHAN BABU:**
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the comfortable position of sugar production in the country during the current year, Government has decided to allow sugar exports during the current financial year;